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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION/ U.S. VETO IN SECURITY COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY.LEBANESE REACTION TO U.S. VETO OF SC PALESTINE RESOLUTION REMARKABLY SUBDUED. HEADLINES IN MAJOR PAPERS REFLECT BOTH OCCURRENCE OF VETO AND U.S. INTENTION TO INTENSIFY PEACE EFFORTS, WHILE EDITORIALS GENERALLY EXPRESS LACK OF SURPRISE. PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" GOES SO FAR AS TO NOTE THAT VETO "DOES NOT CONSECRATE NEW AMERICAN ATTITUDE... PRESIDENT WHO YESTERDAY VOTED AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAUSE MAY VOTE FOR IT TOMORROE." END SUMMARY.

2. NEWS OF VETO RELEGATED TO INSIDE PAGES OF MOST PAPERS. HEADLINES IN MAJOR INDEPENDENT PAPERS COMBINE VETO WITH U.S. INTENTION TO INTENSIFY PEACE EFFORTS: "AN-NAHAR": "AMERICA PREVENTS SC FROM ADOPTING FOR FIRST TIME RESOLUTION CONFIRMING RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO CREATE INDEPENDENT STATE. WASHINGTON PROMISES TO INTENSIFY ITS PEACE EFFORTS." "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR": "AMERICA VETOS PRO-PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT U.S. DELEGATE ADMITS THAT 'POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS'

WERE MADE." LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" MERELY NOTES: "AMERICA USES VETO AGAINST NON-ALIGNED DRAFT RESOLUTION IN MIDEAST AND PALESTINE CAUSE." PRO-LIBYAN "AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI" HIGHLIGHTS ABSTENTIONS: "AMERICAN VETO. LIBYA AND CHINA ABSTAIN FROM VOTING BECAUSE OF DRAFT'S LACK OF SUBSTANCE AND ITS RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL."

3. EDITORIALS GENERALLY EXPRESS LACK OF SURPRISE.
LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" WRITES: "AMERICAN
VETO WAS NOT SURPRISING.... BUT IT DOES NOT CONSECRATE
NEW AMERICAN ATTITUDE.... PRESIDENT WHO YESTERDAY
VOTED AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAUSE MAY VOTE FOR IT TOMORROW,
AND YESTERDAY'S VETO MAY BE THE LAST. CHINA WAS A
FORBIDDEN' THING, YET DAY CAME WHEN AMERICAN PRESIENT
VISITED ITS GREAT WALL."

4. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" WRITES: "AMERICAN VETO IS NOT SURPRISING.... IT IS NO SECRET THAT FORD WANTS TO RETURN TO WHITE HOUSE THROUGH MIDEAST DOOR, BUT HE IS GOVERNED BY SEVERAL RESTRICTIONS. HE CANNOT PERMIT ISRAEL TO WAGE WAR TO CHANGE BALANCE IN AREA, BECAUSE ERA OF ISRAELI INCURSIONS HAS ENDED.... FIRST BULLET TO BE FIRED WOULD KINDLE OIL WAR AND OPEN DOOR WIDE TO MOSCOW. HE ALSO CANNOT -- OR DOES NOT WANT TO -- ACHIEVE PEACE FOUNDED ON U.N. INSTEAD OF SC RESOLUTIONS, BECAUSE THIS WOULD KINDLE JEWISH OPPOSITION DURING ELECTIONS."

5. INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ" IS MORE HOSTILE: "IF U.S. AND BEHIND IT ISRAEL ... HAVE REJECTED RESOLUTION ON ACCOUNT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, THIS CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING: THAT AMERICA AND ISRAEL ARE OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO SOLVING ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE.INSTEAD, THEY WISH TO RESORT TO MANEUVERS AND BLACKMAIL IN ORDER TO AVOID CORE OF ISSUE."

6. LEFTIST PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" GOES EVEN FURTHER:
"RESOLUTION WAS EXTREMELY MODERATE.... YET AMERICA
REFRAINED FROM VOTING FOR IT OR EVEN FROM ABSTAINING,
THIS CONFIRMING ITS COMPLETE SUBMISSION TO ISRAELI
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